

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 298601

STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PORT, XE

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - EA/RA

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/RA - ROBERT J. MARTENS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

1. REFUGEES: MEETING WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR
(CONFIDENTIAL)

ED HURWITZ, FRANK BENNETT AND LIONEL ROSENBLATT OF HA/ORM
MET FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF DECEMBER 12 WITH AUSTRALIAN
EMBASSY COUNSELOR COTTRILL TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS ABOUT
INDOCHINA REFUGEES POSED BY THE GOA. TOPICS COVERED
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INCLUDED WHETHER THE THAI WILL EVENTUALLY RESETTLE AT LEAST
SOME LAND REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY LOWLAND LAO, THE POSSI-
BILITY OF SIGNIFICANT JAPANESE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR
THAI RESETTLEMENT, WHETHER THE SRV IS SERIOUSLY TRYING TO
HALT THE DEPARTURE OF REFUGEES, AND THE REASON FOR THE USG
DESIRE TO HAVE FRANCE, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND OTHER
COUNTRIES OF PERMANENT ASYLUM SET REGULAR MONTHLY QUOTAS

FOR ACCEPTANCE OF BOAT REFUGEES. THE STATUS OF THE PRO-

POSED SINGAPORE TRANSIT CENTER WAS MENTIONED AND LIONEL AND FRANK DESCRIBED OUR EFFORTS TO SECURE ADDITIONAL PAROLE PLACES FOR BOAT REFUGEES PENDING EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL AGREEMENT ON A LONG-TERM APPROACH TO INDOCHINA REFUGEES. USG WILLINGNESS TO GIVE THE GOA ACCESS TO VISA FALCON CLEARANCE PROCEDURES WAS CONFIRMED AND AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO MEET PERIODICALLY IN WASHINGTON FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THIS PROBLEM.

2. MANILA DENOUEMENT (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE PHILIPPINE BID TO HOST THE NEXT GA ENDED DECEMBER 9. THE GA PRESIDENT DELIVERED HIS EXPECTED STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THE DECISION OF THE SPONSORS NOT TO PRESS THE INVITATION. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REGIONAL GROUPS AND THE SYG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE OFFER. WHETHER TO SAVE FACE OR OTHERWISE, ROMULA SAID THE INVITATION STANDS AND MUST BE REPEATED "HOWEVER MANY TIMES IT MAY BE NECESSARY".

3. POSSIBLE UNDP OFFICE IN HANOI (CONFIDENTIAL)

VIENTIANE HAS HEARD FROM AN OFFICIAL TRAVELING FROM A RECENT UN MISSION TO VIETNAM THAT THE SRV HAS AGREED TO
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THE OPENING OF A UNDP OFFICE IN HANOI IN MID-JANUARY. THE OFFICE REPORTEDLY WILL BE HEADED BY A SWEDISH NATIONAL, WHO WILL HAVE ONE ASSISTANT.

4. ASIAN ITEM ON THE COMPOSITION OF UN BODIES (CONFIDENTIAL)

AFTER A GOOD DEAL OF VACILLATION ON THIS RESOLUTION, WHICH CALLED FOR CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE GREATER AFRO-ASIAN REPRESENTATION, THE GA'S SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAS DECIDED BY CONSENSUS TO DEFER THE QUESTION TO THE NEXT GA. IN THE MEANTIME, AN INTERSESSIONAL CONTACT GROUP, CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS REGIONAL GROUPS AT THE UN IS TO MEET UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE ASIANS TO STUDY THE MATTER.

5. UNESCO CONFERENCE ON ASIAN NEWS AGENCIES (LOU)

OUR EMBASSY IN SRI LANKA REPORTS THAT THE UNESCO SPONSORED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASIAN NEWS AGENCIES WAS MARKED BY THE GENERALLY MODERATE TENOR OF THE

MEETINGS AND BY ATTEMPTS TO REASSURE THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES THAT THE ASIAN AGENCIES WERE A SUPPLEMENT TO THEM,

NOT A SUBSTITUTE. THE EMBASSY FURTHER NOTES THAT THE GROUP ADOPTED A REPORT WITH 7 GENERALLY MODERATE RECOMMENDATIONS AND WITH ONLY JAPAN ABSTAINING ON THE REPORT AS A WHOLE (APPARENTLY THIS ABSTENTION STEMMED MORE FROM PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS THAN FROM SUBSTANCE.) CREDIT FOR THE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRAFT WAS ATTRIBUTED LARGELY TO THE SKILL OF THE MALAYSIAN RAPPORTEUR.

6. CODELS (LOU)

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BRIEFING BOOKS FOR CODEL WOLFF ARE SHAPING UP WELL AND SHOULD BE UP TO H BY THE DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE. H HAS INFORMED US THAT A CODEL BAKER IS FORMING AND BRIEFING BOOKS MAY BE WANTED FOR THEIR TRIP BEGINNING JANUARY 2 TO MALAYSIA, HONG KONG, JAPAN AND POSSIBLY THAILAND AND BURMA. WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH DESKS FURTHER IF THIS MATERIALIZES. CHRISTOPHER

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